

FORT SASKATCHEWAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

POLICY

SUBJECT: Internet

REFERENCE #: 97/05

DATE APPROVED: September 10, 1997

REVISED: October 11, 2000, November 14, 2000, March 14, 2001

The Library provides public access to the Internet at no cost to the patron. Patrons accessing the service are reminded that they are at a public workstation in a public building and should conduct themselves accordingly.

The Fort Saskatchewan Public Library believes in free access to information regardless of format. The Fort Saskatchewan Public Library supports the Canadian Library Association statement on Internet access as stated in the CLA policy FR07 (as attached).

1. Responsibility for materials accessed in the Fort Saskatchewan Public Library lies solely with the patron accessing the information.
2. The Fort Saskatchewan Public Library does not endorse the viewpoints or vouch for the accuracy of any electronic information it does not have control over.
3. Parents or guardians of minors are responsible for monitoring materials accessed by minors. The Fort Saskatchewan Public Library will provide a filtered Internet workstation for use of minors but assumes no responsibility for content not filtered by the program.
4. Criminal Law forbids the display or spreading of hate literature, child pornography, illicit drug literature, or obscene material.
5. Civil Law forbids the harassment, libeling or slander of others.
6. The Fort Saskatchewan Public library reserves the right to establish time limits on the use of the Internet workstations.
7. Patrons may be permitted to download information from the Internet. The cost of printing from the Internet will be the same as photocopying charges. To avoid spreading viruses, pre-formatted disks, purchased at the Library, are to be used.

M (Robin) Wilkinson
Board Chair

POLICY 97/05 SCHEDULE A

INTERNET POLICY

SUBJECT: CLA Statement on Internet Access

APPROVED BY: Executive Council, November 8, 1997 (Revised February 2000)

This statement is intended to be considered in tandem with both CLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom (1985) and the CLA Statement on Information and Telecommunication Access Principles (1994). The principles enunciated in those statements apply to issues of intellectual freedom and public access to the Internet in libraries and provide guidance in this area.

In addition, CLA encourages libraries:

- To offer Internet access with the fewest possible restrictions,
- To familiarize themselves, their governing bodies and their communities with the legal issues surrounding the provision of Internet access and to integrate such legal reference points into their access policies,
- To incorporate Internet use principles into overall policies on access to library resources, including time, place, and manner restrictions on Internet use, and user behaviour policies and to publicize these policies widely and post them prominently in library facilities and on electronic media,
- To safeguard the long-standing relationship of trust between libraries and children, their parents and guardians, in developing Internet use policies and practices, acknowledging the rights and responsibilities of parents and guardians,
- To create library web pages consistent with resource priorities that point to appropriately reviewed sites both for general use and for use by children,
- To educate their publics about intellectual freedom principles and the shared responsibility of public and school libraries, parents, and guardians in facilitating access to resources in various forms of media, including the Internet, and
- To assume active leadership in community awareness of, and dialogue on, the issues inherent in the informed use of this essential, yet non-selective and unregulated medium in libraries.